

Conservation Planning

NCNHP identifies the most important places for the conservation of rare species and high quality natural communities. We call these places "Significant Natural Heritage Areas," and have identified more than 2,400 on private and public lands. We prioritize these natural areas to help focus conservation planning efforts and direct financial resources where they bring the most ecological benefit.

Our program works closely with partners by participating in regional and site-specific conservation plans. Partners include:

- State and federal agencies.
- Nonprofit groups and land trusts.
- Local governments.
- Public and private landowners.

NCNHP also encourages stewardship of natural areas through two programs:

Registry of Natural Areas

Owners of Significant Natural Heritage Areas can voluntarily register their property with the Natural Heritage Program to demonstrate their commitment to retaining the land in its natural state.

Dedication of Natural Areas

For public and non-profit conservation agencies, Significant Natural Heritage Areas can be considered for Dedication as State Nature Preserves when they are purchased. Dedication is intended to permanently preserve the natural character of the land.



Photos

- 1 Pine Barrens Treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*) by Steve Hall
- 2 Savanna milkweed (*Asclepias longifolia*) by Misty Franklin
- 3 A grasshopper (*Stethophyma celatum*) by Steve Hall
- 4 (background) Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) by Ed Corey
- 5 Venus' flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) by Richard LeBlond
- 6 An undescribed skipper (*Atrytonopsis* sp. 1) by Steve Hall
- 7 Fewflower milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*) by Richard LeBlond
- 8 Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) by NC Wildlife Resources Commission